

honor the role and contribution of the military family, including selfless service that ensures freedom and preserves the quality of life in the United States.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 647 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 647) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging Americans to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 647) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 647

Whereas there are approximately 463,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 123,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 55 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who "age out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 29,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas everyday, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 30,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2009, adoptions were finalized for nearly 5,000 children through 400 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 20, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 683, S. Res. 684, and S. Res. 685.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 683) recognizing the recent accomplishments of the people and Government of Moldova, and expressing support for free and transparent parliamentary elections on November 28, 2010.

A resolution (S. Res. 684) recognizing the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975.

A resolution (S. Res. 685) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of sickle cell disease by Dr. James B. Herrick.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 683, 684, and 685) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 683

Whereas, since independence 19 years ago, the people of Moldova have made extraordinary progress in transitioning from authoritarian government and a closed market to a democratic government and market economy;

Whereas, for 19 years, the constitution of Moldova has guaranteed its citizens freedom to emigrate confirmed by years of successive Presidential waivers concerning the Jackson-Vanik amendment;

Whereas, on January 12, 2010, the Government of Moldova initiated negotiations with the European Union on an Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova, an important step towards European Union accession;

Whereas, in order to comply with the criteria of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Government of Moldova implemented far-reaching legal reforms to curb corruption, introduce budgetary transparency, and strengthen the capacity of civil society and the media, resulting in the successful conclusion of negotiations and the signing of an MCC Compact on January 22, 2010;

Whereas the Government of Moldova initiated a visa dialogue between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union aiming at visa liberalization on June 15, 2010;

Whereas, on August 26, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised progress in Moldova in "advancing transparent governance, human rights, and economic reform";

Whereas, on October 20, 2010, Reporters Without Borders reported an improvement in the freedom of press in Moldova, with Moldova rising from the 114th position in 2009 to the 75th position in 2010;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Government of Moldova concluded a treaty with Romania important to the assertion of its sovereignty and its future development;

Whereas Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon noted in testimony before the Subcommittee on Europe of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on June 16, 2009, "We will continue to work for a negotiated settlement of the separatist conflict in the Transnistria region that provides for a whole and democratic Moldova and the withdrawal of Russian forces."; and

Whereas the Republic of Moldova has made commitments to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to conduct elections according to international standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the development of an enduring democratic political system and free market economy in Moldova and a parliamentary election process on November 28, 2010, that comports with international standards of fairness and transparency;

(2) recognizes that the commitment of the Government of Moldova to economic and political reforms since 2009 has resulted in tangible progress towards integration into European institutions;

(3) acknowledges that continued reform and commitment to a free and fair election process will remain necessary for Moldova's full integration into the Western community of nations;

(4) notes that continued reforms in Moldova could provide for an additional basis for the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions;